THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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For release: Immediately

NEW ORIENTAL GALLERIES OPENED
FOR PHASE ONE OF ART MUSEUM'S
BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Phase I of the long range development program for the Cleveland Museum of Art was officially completed today, June 3, 1970, with the opening of the new Oriental galleries which provide three times the exhibition space formerly available.

During the last several weeks hundreds of works of art ranging from the smallest of porcelains to monumental sculpture were moved from the old Oriental galleries and reinstalled in the new section.

Scores of objects which had previously been kept in storage for the most part are now available to the public on a permanent instead of an occasional basis.

Paul Ruth was the architect for the new galleries. William E. Ward, the Museum designer, collaborated with Mr. Ruth in design and construction details. There are numerous innovative exhibition techniques to be seen in the new gallery. Lighting and cases have been specially designed and the works of art are displayed so as to enhance the quality of the viewer's connection with and experience of the object.

A number of important recent acquisitions may now be seen for the first time. These include Marshy Landscape, an album leaf by Kung Hsien, a pair of guardian figures from the Kamakura Period of Japan, a Cambodian 8th century stone head and an important bronze Buddha from India. Four Fusuma panels by Kano Motonobu (1476-1559) of masterpiece quality are also to be exhibited for the first time.

(more)

Work on the new galleries began in January, 1969, when classrooms, an auditorium and office space were turned over to construction crews. All of these were gutted, equipment removed and architectural work began.

At the same time, ground was being broken for phase II; construction of a new Education Wing designed by the internationally known architect, Marcel Breuer. This building will house facilities which previously occupied the space now being used for the Oriental galleries. It will also contain new special exhibition space and, generally speaking, provide a building for all of the Museum's interpretive functions as well as the institution's Musical Arts program. The Education Wing is tentatively scheduled to open this fall.

A third stage involves complete reinstallation of the entire permanent collection and will take place over the next several years.

M. 5/5/70